

aid in my power in pursuing the investigation.

#### THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

The Post Office Department occupies a position very different from that of the other departments. For many years it was the policy of the government to render this a self-sustaining department; and if this cannot now be accomplished, in the present condition of the country, we ought to make as near an approach to it as may be practicable.

The Postmaster General is placed in a most embarrassing position by the existing laws. He is obliged to carry these into effect. He has no other alternative. He finds, however, that this cannot be done without heavy demands upon the treasury over and above what is received for postage; and these have been progressively increasing from year to year until they amounted for the last fiscal year ending on the 30th June, 1858, to more than four millions and a half of dollars; while it is estimated that for the present fiscal year, they will amount to \$6,290,000. These sums are exclusive of the annual appropriation of \$700,000 for "compensation for the small service performed for the two houses of Congress and the other departments and offices of the government in the transportation of free matter."

The cause of these large deficits is mainly attributable to the increased expense of transporting the mails. In 1852 the sum paid for this service was but a fraction above four millions and a quarter. Since that year it has annually increased until in 1858 it has reached more than eight millions and a quarter; and for the service of 1859, it is estimated that it will amount to more than ten millions of dollars.

The receipts of the Post Office Department can be made to approach or equal its expenditure, only by means of the legislation of Congress. In applying any remedy, care should be taken that the people shall not be deprived of the advantages which they are fairly entitled to enjoy from the Post Office Department. The principal remedies recommended to the consideration of Congress by the Postmaster General, are to restore the former rate of postage upon single letters to five cents; to substitute for the franking privilege the delivery to those now entitled to enjoy it, of post office stamps for their correspondence; and to direct the department, in making contracts for the transportation of the mail, to confine itself to the payment of the sum necessary for this single purpose, without requiring it to be transported in post coaches or carriages of any description.—Under the present system, the expense to the Government is greatly increased, by requiring that the mail shall be carried in such vehicles as will accommodate passengers. This will be done without pay from the Department, over all roads where the travel will remunerate the contractors.

These recommendations deserve the grave consideration of Congress.

#### CENTRAL AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

The political condition of the narrow isthmus of Central America, through which transit routes pass, between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, presents a subject of deep interest to all commercial nations. It is over these transits that a large proportion of the trade and travel between the European and Asiatic continents is destined to pass. To the United States these routes are of incalculable importance as a means of communication between their Atlantic and Pacific possessions. The latter now extend throughout seventeen degrees of latitude on the Pacific coast, embracing the important State of California and the flourishing Territories of Washington and Oregon. All commercial nations, therefore, have a deep and direct interest that these communications shall be rendered secure from interruption. If an arm of the sea, connecting the two oceans, penetrated through Nicaragua and Costa Rica, it could not be pretended that these States would have the right to arrest or retard its navigation, to the injury of other nations.

#### THE NICARAGUAN TRANSIT.

The transit by land over this narrow isthmus, occupies nearly the same position. It is a highway in which they themselves have little interest when compared with the vast interests of the rest of the world.—Whilst their rights of sovereignty ought to be respected, it is the duty of other nations to require, that the important passage shall not be interrupted by the civil wars and revolutionary outbreaks, which have so frequently occurred in that region. The stake is too important, to be left at the mercy of rival companies, claiming to hold conflicting contracts with Nicaragua. The commerce of other nations is not to stand still and await the adjustment of such petty controversies. The government of the United States expect no more than this, and they will not be satisfied with less.—They would not, if they could, derive any advantage from the Nicaraguan transit, not common to the rest of the world. Its neutrality and protection, for the common use of all nations, is their only object. They have no objection that Nicaragua shall demand and receive a fair compensation from the companies and individuals who may traverse the route; but they insist that it shall never hereafter be closed by any arbitrary decree of that government. If disputes arise between it and those with whom they may have entered into contracts, these must be adjusted by some fair tribunal provided for the purpose, and the route must not be closed pending the controversy.—This is our whole policy, and it cannot fail to be acceptable to other nations.

All these difficulties might be avoided, if, consistently with the good faith of Nicaragua, the use of this transit could be thrown open to general competition; providing at the same time for the payment of a reasonable rate to the Nicaraguan Government, on passengers and freight.

In August, 1852, the Accessory Transit Company made its first interoceanic trip over the Nicaraguan route, and continued in successful operation, with great advantage to the public, until the 18th of February, 1856, when it was closed, and the grant to this company, as well as its charter, were summarily and arbitrarily revoked by the government of President Rivas.—Previous to this date, however, in 1854, serious disputes concerning the settlement of their accounts had arisen between the Company and the government, threatening the interruption of the route at any moment. These the United States in vain endeavored to compose. It would be useless to narrate the various proceedings which took place between the parties, up till the time

when the transit was discontinued. Suffice it to say, that, since February, 1856, it has remained closed, greatly to the prejudice of citizens of the United States. Since that time the competition has ceased between the rival routes of Panama and Nicaragua, and in consequence thereof, an unjust and unreasonable amount has been exacted from our citizens for their passage to and from California.

A treaty was signed on the 16th day of November, 1857, by the Secretary of State and Minister of Nicaragua under the stipulations of which the use and protection of the transit route would have been secured, not only to the United States, but equally to all other nations. How and by what pretexts this treaty has failed to receive the ratification of the Nicaraguan government, will appear by the papers herewith communicated from the State Department. The principal objection seems to have been to the provision authorizing the United States to employ force to keep the route open, in case Nicaragua should fail to perform her duty in this respect. From the feebleness of that republic, its frequent changes of government, and its constant internal dissensions, this had become a most important stipulation, and one essentially necessary not only for the security of the route, but for the safety of American citizens passing and repassing to and from our Pacific possessions. Were such a stipulation embraced in a treaty between the United States and Nicaragua, the knowledge of this fact would of itself most probably prevent hostile parties from committing aggression on the route, and render our actual interference unnecessary.

The executive government of this country, in its intercourse with foreign nations, is limited to the employment of diplomacy alone. When this fails, it can proceed no further. It cannot legitimately resort to force, without the direct authority of Congress, except in resisting and repelling hostile attacks. It would have no authority to enter the territories of Nicaragua, even to prevent the destruction of the transit, and protect the lives and property of our citizens on their passage. It is true, that on a sudden emergency of this character, the President would direct an armed force in the vicinity to march to their relief; but in doing this he would act on his own responsibility.

Under these circumstances, I earnestly recommend to Congress, the passage of an act authorizing the President, under such restrictions as they may deem proper, to employ the land and naval forces of the United States in preventing the transit from being obstructed or closed by lawless violence, and in protecting the lives and property of American citizens traveling thereupon, requiring at the same time that these forces shall be withdrawn the moment the danger shall have passed away. Without such a provision, our citizens will be constantly exposed to interruption in their progress, and to lawless violence.

#### THE PANAMA AND TEHUANTEPEC ROUTES.

A similar necessity exists for the passage of such an act, for the protection of the Panama and Tehuantepec routes. In reference to the Panama route, the United States, by their existing treaty with New Granada, expressly guarantee the neutrality of the Isthmus, "with the view that the free transit from the one to the other sea may not be interrupted or embarrassed in any future time while this treaty exists."

In regard to the Tehuantepec route, which has been recently opened under the most favorable auspices, our treaty with Mexico, of the 30th December, 1853, secures to the citizens of the United States a right of transit over it for their persons and merchandise, and stipulates that neither government shall "interpose any obstacle" thereto. It also concedes to the United States the "right to transport across the Isthmus, in closed bags, the mails of the United States not intended for distribution along the line of the communication; also the effects of the United States government and its citizens which may be intended for transit and not for distribution on the Isthmus, free of custom-house or other charges by the Mexican government."

The treaty stipulations with New Granada and Mexico, in addition to the considerations applicable to the Nicaragua route seem to require legislation for the purpose of carrying them into effect.

#### THE NICARAGUAN AND COSTA RICA OUTRAGES.

The injuries which have been inflicted upon our citizens in Costa Rica and Nicaragua during the last two or three years have received the prompt attention of this government. Some of these injuries were of the most aggravated character. The transaction at Virgin Bay, in April, 1856, when a party of unarmed Americans, who were in no way connected with any beligerent conduct or party, were fired upon by the troops of Costa Rica, and numbers of them killed and wounded, was brought to the knowledge of Congress by my predecessor soon after its occurrence, and was also presented to the government of Costa Rica, for that immediate investigation and redress which the nature of the case demanded. A similar course was pursued with reference to other outrages in these countries, some of which were hardly less aggravated in their character than the transaction at Virgin Bay. At the time, however, when our present minister to Nicaragua was appointed, in December, 1857, no redress had been obtained for any of these wrongs, and no reply even had been received to the demands which had been made by this government on that of Costa Rica, more than a year before. Our minister was instructed, therefore, to lose no time in expressing to these governments the deep regret with which the President had witnessed this inattention to the just claims of the United States, and in demanding their prompt and satisfactory adjustment. Unless this demand shall be complied with at an early day, it will only remain for this government to adopt such other measures as may be necessary, in order to obtain for itself that justice which it has in vain attempted to secure from the governments of Nicaragua and Costa Rica. While it has shown, and will continue to show, the most sincere regard for the rights and honor of these republics, it cannot permit this regard to be met by an utter neglect on their part of what is due to the government and citizens of the United States.

#### OUR RELATIONS WITH CHINA.

I have occasion also to congratulate you on the result of our negotiations with China. You were informed by my last annual message that our minister had been instructed to occupy a neutral position in the hostilities conducted by Great Britain and France against Canton. He

was, however, at the same time, directed to cooperate cordially with the British and French ministers, in all peaceful measures to secure by treaty those just concessions to foreign commerce, which the nations of the world had a right to demand. It was impossible for me to proceed further than this, on my own authority, without usurping the war-making power, which under the constitution belongs exclusively to Congress.

Had a careful examination of the nature and extent of our grievances, I did not believe they were of such a pressing and aggravated character, as would have justified Congress in declaring another earnest attempt to adjust them by peaceful negotiations. I was the more inclined to this opinion because of the severe chastisement which had then but recently been inflicted upon the Chinese by our squadron in the capture and destruction of the Barrier forts, to avenge an alleged insult to our flag.

The event has proved the wisdom of our neutrality. Our minister has executed his instructions with eminent skill and ability. In conjunction with the Russian plenipotentiary, he has peacefully but effectually co-operated with the English and French plenipotentiaries, to have been concluded by a convention of a highly satisfactory character. The treaty, concluded by our own plenipotentiary will immediately be submitted to the Senate.

#### OUR RELATIONS WITH JAPAN.

I am happy to announce that, through the energetic, yet conciliatory, efforts of our consul general in Japan, a new treaty has been concluded with that empire, which may be expected materially to augment our trade and intercourse in that quarter, and remove from our countrymen the disabilities which have heretofore been imposed upon the exercise of their religion. The treaty shall be submitted to the Senate for approval without delay.

#### OUR RELATIONS WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

It is my earnest desire that every misunderstanding with the government of Great Britain, should be amicably and speedily adjusted. It has been the misfortune of both countries, almost ever since the period of the revolution, to have been engaged by a succession of irritating and dangerous questions, threatening their friendly relations. This has partially prevented the full development of those feelings of mutual friendship between the people of the two countries, so natural in themselves and so conducive to their common interest. Any serious interruption of the commerce between the United States and Great Britain, would be equally injurious to both. In fact, no two nations have ever existed on the globe, which could do each other so much good or so much harm.

Entertaining these sentiments, I am gratified to inform you, that the long-pending controversy between the two governments, in relation to the question of visitation and search, has been amicably adjusted. The claim on the part of Great Britain, forcibly to visit American vessels on the high seas in time of peace, could not be sustained under the law of nations, and it had been overruled by her own most eminent jurists. It was recently brought to an issue, by the repeated acts of British cruisers, in boarding and searching our merchant vessels in the Gulf of Mexico and the adjacent seas. These acts were the more injurious and annoying, as these waters are traversed by a large portion of the commerce and navigation of the United States. Such vexatious interruptions could not fail to excite the feelings of the country, and to require the interposition of the government.

Remonstrances were addressed to the British government against these violations of our rights of sovereignty, and a naval force was at the same time ordered to the Cuban waters, with directions "to protect all vessels of the United States on the high seas, from search or detention by the vessels of war of any other nation." These measures received the unqualified and even enthusiastic approbation of the American people. Most fortunately, however, no collision took place, and the British government promptly atoned its recognition of the principles of international law upon this subject, as laid down by the government of the United States, in the note of the Secretary of State to the British minister at Washington, of April 10, 1858, which secures the vessels of the United States upon the high seas from visitation or search in time of peace, under any circumstances whatever.

The claim has been abandoned in a manner reflecting honor on the British government, and evincing a just regard for the law of nations, and cannot fail to strengthen the amicable relations between the two countries.

The British government, at the same time, proposed to the United States that some mode should be adopted, by mutual arrangement between the two countries, of a character which may be found effective without being offensive, for verifying the nationality of vessels suspected on good grounds of carrying false colors. They have also invited the United States to take the initiative in recognizing its responsibility, the Secretary of State has informed the British government that we are ready to receive any proposals which they may feel disposed to offer, having this object in view, and to consider them in an amicable spirit. A strong opinion is, however, expressed, that the occasional abuse of the flag of any nation is an evil far less to be deprecated than would be the case if the United States were to recognize and become a party to the freedom of the seas. This government has yet received no communication specifying the manner in which the British government would propose to carry out their suggestion, and I am inclined to believe, that no plan which can be devised will be free from grave embarrassments. Still, I shall form no decided opinion on the subject, until I shall have carefully, and in the best spirit, examined any proposals which they may think proper to make.

I am truly sorry I cannot also inform you that the complications between Great Britain and the United States, arising out of the Clayton and Bulwer treaty of April, 1850, have been finally adjusted.

At the commencement of your last session, I had reason to hope that, emancipating themselves from further unavailing discussions, the two governments would proceed to settle Central American questions in a practical manner, alike honorable and satisfactory to both; and this hope I have not yet abandoned. In my last annual message, I stated that overtures had been made by the British Government for this purpose, in a friendly spirit, which I cordially reciprocated. Their proposal was, to withdraw these questions from direct negotiation between the two governments; but to accomplish the same object, by a negotiation between the British government and each of the Central American republics whose territorial interests are immediately involved. The settlement was to be made in accordance with the general tenor of the interpretation placed upon the Clayton and Bulwer treaty by the United States, with certain modifications. As negotiations are still pending upon this basis, it would not be proper for me now to communicate their present condition. A final settlement of these questions is greatly to be desired, as this would wipe out the last remaining subject of dispute between the two countries.

#### FRANCE AND RUSSIA.

Our relations with the great empires of France and Russia, as well as with all other governments on the continent of Europe, except that of Spain, continue to be of the most friendly character.

## The Oregon Argus.

W. L. ADAMS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OREGON CITY:

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1859.

#### NOTICE.

There will be a meeting of the Territorial Republican Central Committee at OREGON CITY, January 20, at one o'clock P. M., to attend to such business as legitimately pertains to the duties of said Committee.

W. T. MATLOCK,

Chairman of Rep. Com.

#### SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

The bill which passed the lower house of the Legislature submitting the location of the seat of Government to the people, was taken to the Council, where it was attempted to be amended by locating it at Portland. The Council failed to agree on Portland, Oregon City, or any other place, and whether

the original bill submitting it to the people will pass the Council or not is quite uncertain.

#### Slave Protection.

We print to-day a bill which was before the Legislature last Monday for the protection of slave property in Oregon, as also the report of TVault and Chapman, a minority of the Judiciary Committee to which the bill had been referred. The 'report' says that it comes from the "undersigned to whom" the bill was referred. When the report was read in the House last Monday, Mr. Smith of Polk offered a resolution calling on the majority of the Judiciary Committee to report. The resolution was adopted after a good deal of discussion.—While Chapman and TVault heartily approved of legislation protecting slave property, as in harmony with the decision of the Supreme Court and the principles of the Democratic party, some of the members seemed to be considerably flabbergasted upon a presentation of the whole matter, and looked anxiously around to see if there wasn't a squatter-sovereign loophole for them to crawl out at. It seemed to them rather too sudden an order from headquarters to doff the old Democratic robe, which, while it had many broad black stripes down it, it nevertheless boasted a few white ones, on which "popular sovereignty," "the majority rule," &c., were printed in large gilt letters, and don a robe dripping from a thorough immersion in the nigger dye-tub, and of course black all over. They seemed to have a sneaking idea that such legislation would be somewhat against the wishes of an overwhelming majority of the people, who had already spoken their will at the polls. Their throats hadn't yet got entirely well from vociferously bawling into the ears of their constituents that the people of even a Territory were sovereign over their own domestic institutions, and that the Democratic party wasn't a Southern, sectional, slave-breeding party—that the people of Oregon had decided against slavery, and the Democratic party considered the nigger question settled and satisfactorily disposed of by a fair vote, and that the party deprecated, seriously deprecated, all agitation on this subject, and if there was any more agitation it would be the fault of the 'black republicans.'

To reconcile their past conduct with the line of policy TVault and Chapman now called on them to pursue, needed time and reflection, and we were not surprised last Monday to notice a general want of preparation on the part of a few 'Democrats' to face the music till they had further cogitated and perhaps consulted with knowing Democrats who had already climbed the Douglas horn as to whether such legislation was in harmony with both Buchanan and Douglas democracy, and, if not, what was the difference, and which side they must take. Chapman, who has hitherto been a Free State Democrat, but who, like all 'old line Whigs' who have apostatized, is willing to go with the Democratic party where it goes, lie where it lies, and if it makes its bed in hell, behind he will be there, stood boldly up alongside of TVault in swallowing his portion of dirt and in scourging the faithful up to the rack. As he and TVault stood upon the very brink of the seething caldron of black democracy, pointing with one hand to the depth of slave protection, and with the other deep of nationalizing slavery by trampling Free State constitutions under foot and reviving the slave trade, and with the other scourging the bare backs of the trembling doughfaces that sat squatting around the abyss and peering into its dark depths to see if there was any bottom which would bring them up on a permanent democratic platform that would stop 'progressing' downward, it was really amusing to us to see their eyeballs rolling, first down into the abyss and then hither and thither, to see if the Douglas and Buchanan 'split' or some other split didn't afford a crack big enough for them to crawl through without either sacrificing their standing with the 'party' or taking the fatal leap that their masters told them they must. One poor fellow wasn't posted on the nigger question, and hadn't read the 'Judge Scott decision' closely enough to know what the Judge had really imposed upon a Democrat as essential articles of faith, while another thought Douglas's notions of the legitimacy and unconstitutionality of 'unfriendly legislation in Territories in regard to slavery' might be harmonized with the 'Dreadful Scott decision' and the Cincinnati and Salem platforms. Another, while he knew but little about the 'Dreadful Scott decision,' or the decision of 'Jeems Bew-kennen,' did know something about the 'decision' of the people of Oregon, and intimated his desire to act in accordance with that 'decision,' if he could do so without being read out of the party.

But no—Chapman was inexorable. He pointed downward into the yawning abyss, and told the unwashed they must make the fatal leap as the Court had decided, and the party had decided that such was democracy, and they must all pile in together. The old grey-headed veteran, after he had fairly exhausted himself by explaining what was Democratic duty, and by manfully wielding the Democratic scourge, finally fell to coaxing and then to frightening the faithful. He first appealed to their sense of duty as loyal Democrats, and then told them that if they voted against protecting slavery here, they would be acting with the Republicans, for they would vote against the bill in a solid body. Here we noticed

a slight giving way about the knees of severity who had acted rather sullen before, and from the influence the argument seemed to have we should not be surprised if Chapman and TVault should peg away at it till they get their bill through the House. It has, we learn, passed the Council since we left, and the people may not be very much surprised to hear that our Democratic Legislature has passed a law virtually making this a slave State in defiance of the will of the people. If the State is admitted this winter, it will no doubt be done by a Congressional act legalizing the Territorial enactments of this winter.

SHREWS.—The central committee of the Salem sectional Democracy met at the seat of government last Saturday, and called a Territorial (or State, as the case may be) convention to nominate a candidate for Congress, April 20. Putting off the convention till this late date was designed to secure three things—give Lane full time to get back, put the convention so far ahead that the softs would wait the action of the hard convention till it was too late to organize, and shorten the time for the canvass as much as possible. They are dreading the effects of a thorough, searching canvass, and look to a lengthening out of the days of the corrupt dynasty by keeping the people as much in the dark as possible.—The result of thorough stamping East has taught the sectionalists a lesson in Oregon. Of course the action of the convention, so far as it relates to Lane's benefit, was considered a triumph of TVault's faction.

PRESIDENTIAL.—Delazon Smith in a letter published in the last Times, says, in speaking of Jo Lane, "All classes speak encouragingly of him in connection with the next Presidency." We think Delazon only meant to say that all grades of the lower 'class' with whom he has associated speak of Jo's prospect for the Presidency. Jo Lane has often been spoken 'encouragingly of' by this class in connection with a bottle of whisky, and we see no reason why the 'Presidency' may not have sometimes been made a topic of conversation.

NEW PAPER.—We have seen the prospectus of a paper to be started at Corvallis to be called 'Equal Rights.' It proposes to advocate 'true democracy.' Of course no honest man would advocate what he believed to be false democracy—but we cannot gather from the prospectus whether the 'true' standard of democracy with it will be that of Jefferson, Buchanan, Douglas, Jeff. Davis, Hammond, or (to get down from the lofty to the ridiculous) Bush or Avery, or even whether it is to be pro-slavery or anti-slavery, or a happy mixture of the two, or neither.

TEMPERANCE.—We judge that the petitions numerous signed and praying the Legislature to submit a prohibitory law to the people, will meet with but little favor from this Legislature.

WE are indebted to Mr. Hoyt, Clerk of the steamer Express, for late San Francisco papers by the Pacific.

WASHING FLUID.—A friend sends in the following receipt, requesting its publication: Cut up five eight pounds bar soap, put in two ounces of borax, and add to this ten pounds of sal soda dissolved in two gallons of water, and heat to a boil, stirring it well. When all dissolved, add eighteen gallons of water, and stir it thoroughly; then set it off, and when it cools it is ready for use.

ARDENT.—Mr. Leland, the old editor of the Standard, has always cherished a kindly feeling toward the paper since the time that he was ousted as editor. The feeling has continued to grow upon him until it became evident that fatal consequences must result from it. We are happy to say, however, that, instead of injuring him, the strength of his 'attachment' has only killed the Standard.

The following was not received at the office till last Saturday night:

PORTLAND, Jan'y 4th, 1859.  
MR. ADAMS: Will you please to state in your next number that the publication of the "Democratic Standard" will be suspended until further notice.  
Respectfully,  
JAS. O'MEARA.

BETHEL, Jan. 3, 1859.

MR. ADAMS: A sad accident occurred here last Christmas morning. Henry C. Pigg was mortally injured in bursting a log open with powder. A large piece struck him on the head, breaking the skull. We trepanned the skull, and did everything possible to save him, but he expired New Year's morning.  
Yours,  
TRUMAN BONNEY.

#### Report of the Judiciary Committee upon Slave Petitions.

MR. SPEAKER: The undersigned members of the Judiciary Committee to whom was referred the petitions of sundry citizens of Oregon upon the subject of passing a law for the protection of slave property in said Territory, have had the same under consideration and respectfully report:

That it is our opinion that the spirit of the Constitution of the United States, as pronounced by the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott case, authorizes the holding of slaves in any of the Territories of the United States; that the Constitution does not authorize Congress to legislate slavery into or out of a territory, but protects a citizen of any of the United States who may think proper to locate in a territory in the possession and use of any property he may be possessed of which is recognized as property by the constitution and laws of the State from which he may migrate.  
We believe that while a territory remains

as a territory that it is as much the property of a slaveholding State as it is of a non-slaveholding State, and that the citizens of a slaveholding State have the same constitutional right to convey their slaves to said territory, and use them there, and be protected in their rights, as the citizens of a non-slaveholding State has the right to convey any chattel property he may be possessed of to said territory, and be protected in his right to such chattel property.

We do not believe that Congress, in legislating for a territory, has the constitutional right to decide what class of citizens shall locate in a territory, nor what kind of property they shall be possessed of; nor do we believe that any power can be delegated by Congress to a Territorial Legislature that is not possessed by Congress; therefore the Territorial Legislature cannot prohibit slavery in the Territory, for the inferior cannot exercise powers that is not granted to the superior.

We do believe that when Congress does organize a territorial government, extending to the people the right to legislate for their respective territories, that the Constitution of the United States guarantees to the inhabitants of such territory the right to legislate and regulate the manner how any person shall have his property protected, and he shall obtain the possession and control of such property, be the same a slave or any other chattel property.

Although your committee has not had the time and opportunity to investigate this subject as its importance requires, yet we are decidedly of opinion that the foregoing hasty conclusions are fully warranted by the Constitution and its legal construction, and beg leave to report the following bill for the protection of slave property in the Territory of Oregon, and recommend its passage.

W. W. CHAPMAN, CLK.

W. G. TVAULT.

#### A Bill to protect property in Slaves in the Territory of Oregon.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Oregon, That any person or persons, who may have brought slaves to this Territory, and owning property in such slaves according to the constitution of the United States, as construed by the supreme court in the 'Dred Scott case,' shall have all the rights and remedies in the several courts of this Territory, which are allowed for the protection and recovery of any real or personal property of like value.

SEC. 2. Every person who shall knowingly harbor, harbor, or employ any slave, brought into this Territory, without the consent of the owner, shall forfeit and pay five dollars to the owner for every day such slave shall be harbored, harbored, or employed by him to be recovered by action of debt.

SEC. 3. Slaves shall be rated and assessed to the owners thereof as any other personal property.

SEC. 4. Any master, commander or owner of any boat or vessel who shall transport any slave out of this Territory, in such vessel, or from one point or place in this Territory, to any other point or place in the same, in such vessel, without the consent or permission of the person to whom such slave does of right belong, or who has authority to grant such consent or permission, shall forfeit and pay the value of such slave to his owner, to be recovered by action of debt without prejudice to the right of such owner to his action at common law.

SEC. 5. Every boat or vessel used in navigating the waters of this Territory, whose master or owner shall violate the preceding section shall be liable to the same extent that such master, owner or commander is, and such boat or vessel may be sequestered against for the recovery of such liability.

#### NOTICE:

In Corvallis, January 12, 1859, by Rev. D. E. Blaine, Mr. HENRY C. HILL, of Portland, to Miss SARAH H. KANE, of Corvallis.

On Christmas day, at the residence of Samuel Brown, French Prairie, by Rev. T. H. Small, Mr. A. F. JOHNSON to Miss AMANDA B. MALTBY.

At the same time and place, by the same, Mr. JOHN SMITH to Miss HANNAH J. STEWART.

Dec. 26, 1859, by the same, at the residence of Rev. Neil Johnson, Mr. ROBERT A. JACK to Miss ALBENIA A. JOHNSON.

#### DEED:

At Corvallis, on Sunday morning, Jan. 9, 1859, Mrs. LUDIA FOUR, wife of Wm. Four, Esq., in the 46th year of her age, after an illness of more than a year.

#### Sheriff's Sale.

NOTICE is hereby given that in obedience to a certain execution issued out of the District Court for the Second Judicial District of the Territory of Oregon, in favor of Wm. Armpriest against George Groom, for the sum of one hundred and forty-nine dollars and nineteen cents and accruing costs (\$149.19), to me directed, commanding me to sell all of the right, title, and interest of George Groom in and to the following described attached property, to wit: The north half of the following described land claim, to wit: The west half of the west half of sec. twenty-two (22), and the north half of sec. twenty-seven (27), and the E. half of the south-east quarter of sec. twenty-seven (27), and the N. W. quarter of the south-east quarter of sec. twenty-seven, and the N. E. quarter of the south-west quarter of section twenty-seven (27), all being in Township 31 north, range one (1) east, in the 21st meridian county. Said property to take place on the 21st day of January, 1859, at 2 o'clock P. M. of said day, at the court-house door in Oregon City.

A. HOLLAND,

Jan. 8, 1859-39 Sheriff Clatskanie Co.

#### IN PROBATE COURT, JANUARY TERM 1859.

#### Order for Appearance.

WILLIAM ARMPRIEST, administrator of the estate of J. E. Taylor, deceased, has filed his petition in the Probate court for Clatskanie county, O. T., praying for an order to sell the real property belonging to said estate, and to distribute the same to all persons interested in and entitled to appear before the Probate court of Clatskanie county on Tuesday the 8th day of February, 1859, and show cause, if any they have, why an order should not be granted to the administrator to sell the real property belonging to the estate of said deceased to pay the debts and charges against the estate.

ROBERT CAULFIELD,

Jan. 8, 1859-39-5 Judge of Probate.

#### Sale of School Lands.

BY order of the Board of County Commissioners for Yamhill county, I will sell for sale to the highest bidder at the Court House in Lafayette on MONDAY the 1st day of February next, all the Common School Lands (of which a description can be obtained from the Land Office) lying in said county. Sale will be between the hours of ten a. m. and four p. m., and continues from day to day until all is offered.

TERMS—No lands will be sold for less than five dollars per acre, one third cash in hand, the balance to be paid in two years. Purchasers will be required to give their notes with approved security drawing ten per cent. interest per annum.

GEO. W. ELMER,

Jan. 1, 1859-38-5 Sup't of Com. Schools.

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